

WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

THE GROWTH OF THE CITY AND OF NATIONAL BUILDINGS.

NEEDS OF THE GOVERNMENT AHEAD OF THE SUPPLY—SENATOR EDMUND'S PLAN FOR A NATIONAL UNIVERSITY—MANUFACTORIES DEPRESSED.

Washington, Feb. 7.—The growth of Washington is greatly accelerated by the rapid growth of the wants of the National Government. In the last ten years there have been many enormous buildings added to the Government's properties. The National Museum, the Museum of the Surgeon-General's Office, and the State, War and Navy Building have been constructed, at a cost of upward of \$15,000,000. The new Library Building is soon to be followed by a similar one for the use of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is much crowded in its present quarters in the Capitol. The wants of Congress are continually increasing. It needs all of the room of the present building. The new Supreme Court Building has not yet been provided for by Congress. Its general plan, however, has been prepared and approved. It will involve an expenditure of at least \$5,000,000. It is proposed to employ this building also as a hall of records, for the preservation of all the valuable archives of the Government. Its uses will be similar to the offices of the Rolls in London, where every important document relating to the history of the British Government, going back even to the Domesday Book, can be found. In the various departments of the Government there are many valuable documents. They are not, however, in safe quarters. None of the places where they are deposited have been built specially for protection against fire and water. It was only within the last ten years that some most valuable documents in the Interior Department were destroyed in a fire on the upper floor. This upper floor, which was devoted to the uses of the Patent Office, has long been choked and overcrowded.

The Patent Commissioner would like a new building. The needs of the service are great. The Interior Department, in fact, is so overcrowded to-day that some division of its departments will have to be made. Every now and then some one branch of its service is forced to rent outside quarters. The moment this is made necessary the Government can better afford to build quarters of its own than to pay the large rents required from private property. One of the first separations from the Interior Department was that of the Geological Survey. This started in one of the smaller rooms of the Interior Department. As the service grew, it was impossible to find quarters for it in the Department. Then a large building was rented outside. This is always the preliminary step to getting a new building. The necessities of the Geological Survey led to the construction of the National Museum. Its independent quarters are now most creditable to the Government, and the collection fostered by Major Powell in this great building is one that fully justifies all the expenditures made for its establishment and support.

The Indian Bureau is beginning to leave the Interior Department Building. Its headquarters are now in a rented building. The service has become so large and the work connected therewith is so great that more room became necessary. A new building will be in order for this service, another one of the great buildings which will be erected within the next ten years is the Department of Justice. The present place is in an old building originally put up for the Free men's Park. When the bank's financial career ended disastrously the Government took charge of the building. It fortunately acquired with it the land reaching clear to the corner of Madison Place. This land, when it was acquired, could not have been worth more than an outside figure than \$15 or \$20 a square foot. It would readily to-day command \$75 a square foot. The Government has a frontage here of about 250 feet. This gives full opportunity for a most magnificent building directly opposite the Treasury. Some of the engineers of the Capital have been discussing plans for the raising of the Treasury. An Old World critic to-day in speaking of this plan objects seriously to the proposed change. He says that the chief beauty of the Treasury now is in its odd situation. It is a trifle below the street at one end, but the effect of the building is lost in no way through any of its approaches.

At a meeting of the committee of the Board of Trade charged with the subject of universities a new plan for a Government University has just been approved. This is to give local support to the project of Senator Edmunds for the establishment at Washington of a great National university. Senator Edmunds expects to press his bill for action in the next Congress. He hopes that the tariff and financial questions will then be out of the way, so that there will be a good opportunity for a proper consideration of this subject. The Methodists are just beginning to build a university to rival the great Catholic University. There were long before this two universities at the Capital, the old University of Georgetown and the Columbia College of Washington. Then Howard University was established for the education of colored men. This has prospered ever since it began, and to-day is adding an industrial school which promises to be one of its most valuable features. There are therefore five universities at present in Washington. The National University, which will make the sixth, will be a post-graduate school, where special instruction will be given to students who are now obliged to go to Europe for further study after leaving the universities of this country. It is also proposed to have a special scientific school at Washington, with an industrial department, which shall be free to the poor boys and girls of all parts of the country. These are some of the features now projected in the way of education. The National Art Gallery project of Mr. Franklin W. Smith has also been taken up here by the Board of Trade, and has already received such endorsement that it is now believed that the cornerstone for that will be laid within the next year. The new National Observatory is another great Government work, which has added great value to property in the northwestern part of the city. The work on the National parks and the drives leading to them is another chapter in the history of that wonderful improvements now being made at the National Capital.

The public work going on along the Potomac River will soon lift up and bring into view a part of the city which has been almost deserted. The malaria of this region has been created by the marshes, which are now nearly drained. It is believed that the Boulevard of the National Park, construction of which will follow the draining and reclamation of the flats, will be completed within the next three years. The people who are seeking to improve the Capital have begun to move across the Potomac.

Plans for improvement in this direction are numerous. A number of memorial bridges are projected. The approaches to Washington from Virginia are hideous. One of the plans for an improvement in this direction is the establishment of a National roadway between Washington and Mount Vernon. First will come a memorial bridge, which shall be called the Washington Bridge, and then will come the roadway. It is proposed to make a broad, splendid driveway suitable for carriages. The bridge will connect the Potomac Flats Park with this roadway. The State of Virginia has taken great interest in this project, and has lent all possible encouragement. It has given a charter and promised to give the right of way. It has also surrendered the amount of \$150,000 to be used toward the expense of constructing this driveway. The presentation of a claim against the United States Government may not be regarded as one of much value. The claim is an honest one, however, and if it were simply to go to the Court of Claims a judgment would be readily obtained. There will probably be less hesitation upon the part of Congress to appro-

priate the money necessary to satisfy this claim when it is known that the money will be employed in the construction of this road.

Anadostan Island, south of Washington, in the direction of this roadway, is in the hands of a great California syndicate, which proposes to establish there a group of manufacturers and in the end will make a manufacturing town of Alexandria, regarding it as a most favorable point for distribution to the South or North. There are many in Washington who will object to this. The California people, who are great believers in the Capital, say that the manufacturing element is alone needed to give a substantial character to the city and to justify its more rapid growth in wealth and population. There are, however, a great many who object. They say that Washington's chief charm now is that it is free from the contaminating smoke of manufacturers and the disagreeable associations connected with great commercial works. The south wind is the prevailing one at Washington. With manufacturers at Alexandria, black smoke would hover over the Capital and soon change its bright and clean appearance. A prominent New York businessman said to me the other day: "Any one who has a property interest at the Capital should discourage the establishment here of manufacturers. We should have one city in our country that is not swallowed and choked up with business. Its chief charm now is in its essential difference from all other cities, and its freedom from the overshadowing thought of money-making. If it can go on and retain its present frank and engaging social characteristics and keep free, as it has, from the great business machinations of the North and the South, it will, to my mind, grow more rapidly and in the direction of the solidly beautiful than if we had the manufacturing interests of the entire country."

T. C. CRAWFORD.

THE WEEK IN SOCIETY.

A BUSY SEASON IN SOCIETY NEAR ITS END.

A crowded and busy season and a short one is almost at an end, and there remains scarcely more than forty-eight hours to be devoted to gaiety. Though some wiseacres predicted at the start a season without balls and with simplicity as the standard of all entertainments, predictions have gone sadly astray. It is doubtful if ever in the history of New York society more complete and elegant entertainments have been given. To be sure there were not the New Year's ball, the Bradley Martin dinner, or even the dinner dances, but there have been Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt's evening concerts with the Symphony Society orchestra, Mrs. Astor's dinners and ball, the combined evening receptions with music and dancing at Mrs. Webb's and Mrs. Twombly's, Mrs. Forbes Leith's dinners and evening crush, Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt's ball, Mrs. Ogden Mills' ball, the Assemblies and Patriarch's ball, which are looked upon as a master of course, and dinner parties without number, each on elaborate scale. The last week and the two days to come make a fitting close to such a scene of gayety as can only be accomplished before an early Lent.

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